□ ˅ ┤ ㆢ
lipu lili pi nasin toki

⌕Ⲙ≫ꝑ⊠
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✧ㆢ|⊙⊠|⊙ꝑ|⊙∨Ꙡ
13 May 2022

⟩ basic sentences

A basic sentence in toki pona consists of a subject and predicate. These are separated by li (⟩). If the subject is mi or sina (ꝑ ꝺ) alone, li must be omitted.

> ona li pona. (They are good.)
> mi moku. (I eat.)

ꝺ addressing

To make a sentence imperative, replace li with o (ꝺ). To mark it as vocative, you can put a comma after the o.

> o moku. (Please eat.)
> jan o, toki! (Hello, person!)

⟫ direct objects

To specify a direct object, use e (⟫) after li.

> mi moku e kili. (I eat the fruit.)
> ona li toki e toki pona. (They speak about toki pona.)

Adjectives and nouns can be used as predicates; in this case, if a direct object is stated, the subject is applying the predicate to the object, or causes the object to be the adjective.

> mi pona e ijo. (I fix the thing.)
> mi luka e nena. (I apply hand to the button; I press the button.)

+ compound sentences

Toki Pona has no way of combining two separate sentences. However, you can use li multiple times to specify multiple predicates, or e multiple times to specify multiple objects. To specify multiple subjects, use en (+).

> mi en sina li lukin li kute e pipi e jan. (You and I look at and listen to bugs and people.)

L adjectives

Adjectives come after the nouns or verbs they modify. Each is applied left-to-right. To regroup adjectives, use pi (L).

pi does not have any precise rules on how it regroups adjectives, and there is in fact no consensus among toki pona speakers on how it should be used (especially with stacked pi's); meaning can usually be determined through context.

> ilo kalama (instrument)
> ilo kalama suli (big instrument)
> ilo pi kalama suli (loud tool)

⊃ la

The particle la (⊃) is called the "context" particle. "A la B" roughly means "In the context of A, B." this can be used for time, adverbs, etc.

> tenpo kama la mi lape. (I sleep in the context of coming time; I will sleep.)

ken la mi lape. (I might sleep.)
> mi moku e kili la mi lape. (I will sleep if I eat fruit.)

÷ prepositions

Some words (marked with *prep.* in lipu lili pi nimi ale) in toki pona function as prepositions (e.g. lon, tawa, kepeken, nanpa). These words should not be used with e; this makes them transitive.

> ona li lon. (They exist.)
> mi lon tomo tawa. (I'm in the car.)
> mi pana e kili tawa sina. (I give you a fruit.)
> mi tawa e supa. (I move the table.)

Position words (e.g. poka, monsi) can be turned into prepositions by putting lon before them.

> mi lon poka pi tomo tawa. (I'm near the car.)
> mi lon poka supa e kili. (I place the fruit next to the table. Be warned that this example is not widely understood.)

ω preverbs

Some words (e.g. wile, sona, kama) are *preverbs*, meaning they are put before a verb to modify it. (These verbs are marked with *pv.* in lipu lili pi nimi ale and lipu Linku.)

> mi wile moku. (I want to eat.)
> mi ken pali e lipu. (I can make books.)

⌕ names

All proper nouns in toki pona are marked with capitalization (or cartouches in sitelen pona). Proper nouns function as adjectives, meaning they must be prefixed with a noun that describes the thing they refer to. It is common to revise these names to match toki pona's phonotactics.

> jan Semu (person named Semu; James)
> toki Epelanto (language named Epelanto; Esperanto)

To convert proper nouns into toki pona, follow these rules:

1. Prioritize phonetics over spelling.
2. Use endonyms instead of exonyms.
3. Use local pronunciations rather than "official" ones.
4. Follow toki pona phonotactics (shown on last page).

See *jan-ne.github.io/tp/tpize* for a full list.

? questions

Yes or no questions in toki pona can be formed in one of two ways: repeating the verb with ala in between, and adding "anu seme" at the end of the sentence. These questions can be answered by repeating the verb for yes, and repeating the verb followed by ala (or just ala) for no.

> kili li pona ala pona tawa sina? (do you like fruit?)
> kili li pona tawa sina, anu seme? (do you like fruit?)

Open-ended questions use "seme" (?), a word that functions similar to English words "what" and "which".

ㆢ phonotactics

toki pona has the consonants *m n p k s w l j* and the vowels *i u e o a*.

Syllables in toki pona use the form CV(N), where C is a consonant that can be dropped at the start of a word, V is a vowel, and N is an optional *n*.

The syllables *wu wo ji ti* are disallowed, as well as the same syllables with added *n*. No two nasals can appear next to each other (i.e., no *nm* or *nn*).